



COMMAND, CONTROL,  
COMMUNICATIONS, AND  
INTELLIGENCE

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
6000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-6000

November 29, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEFENSE PROCUREMENT &  
ACQUISITION POLICY (ACQUISITION WORKFORCE &  
CAREER MANAGEMENT)

SUBJECT: Implementation of Newly Mandatory Course Requirements in the  
Information Technology Career Field

We request your concurrence with recommendations for implementation of mandatory Software Acquisition Management (SAM) courses in the Information Technology (IT) career field.

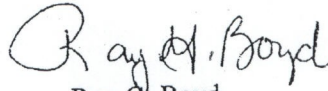
On September 11, 2002, the Acquisition Career Management Overarching Integrated Product Team approved a new IT Position Category Description (PCD). Among the changes in the IT PCD is the requirement to complete the appropriate level SAM course at each certifying level. This additional requirement recognizes the significant need for increased competency in the acquisition of software intensive systems. The Defense Acquisition University (DAU) has indicated that they will need a transition period (18-24 months) to provide sufficient course offerings in support of this change. Several of the Services also requested a ramp-up period prior to this change.

The IT Functional Integrated Product Team recommendation is to make the SAM courses desired, but not mandatory, between now and September 30, 2004. The current certification rules will apply through that time. From October 1, 2004 forward, the SAM courses will be mandatory for certification. This plan allows programming sufficient funds through the normal POM process, and would give the school sufficient time to prepare for the expected "bow wave" of applicants when the SAM courses become mandatory.

Because of the potential for a large influx of students, the Components should be strongly encouraged to enroll IT careerists through the appropriate SAM courses during the ramp up period prior to October 1, 2004. Accordingly, we request your office's support, both in the development of DAU funding priorities and endorsement to the Directors, Acquisition Career Management (DACM), in implementing these necessary changes to the IT career field.



My point of contact for this action is Ms. Carolyn Clements at (703) 602-0980, ext. 182, or carolyn.clements@osd.mil.



Ray G. Boyd  
Acting Information Technology Functional Advisor

Attachment:  
As stated

CC: DACM's  
DAU (George Prosnik)  
IRMC (Mary Polydys)  
AT&L DS SIS